

A contribution to the factorial validity of the BAMBIC in Italian pediatric population with and without neurodevelopmental diseases

Paolo Carmelo Mirizzi, Alessandro Caffò and Andrea Bosco

University of Bari Aldo Moro, Italy

Abstract

The aim of the present study is to provide a contribution to the Italian validation of the brief assessment of mealtime behaviors in children, (BAMBIC; Hendy, Seiverling, Lukens and Williams, 2013), examining the psychometric properties of the instrument, when applied to a population of children developing in general (TD) and with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) never evaluated for behavioral problems related to eating habits. Parents of children with ASD and TD have completed an indirect assessment protocol consisting of: Brief evaluation of behavior during meals in children (BAMBIC), pediatric assessment behavioral scale (BPFAS) and nutrition and other digestive problems in children with autism spectrum disorders, used as convergent/concurrent measures. The confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) on BAMBIC highlighted adequate psychometric characteristics compared to the original version. The exploratory and confirmatory factorial analyzes supported a three-factor solution that explains 45% of the variance of the original articles and an acceptable Cronbach alpha equal to .729 for the TD population and .799 for the ASD population. The Italian version of BAMBIC showed that the total scale score of ASD children was visibly higher than the score obtained from the typical reference development sample ($p < 0.001$). The factorial structure identified three dimensions related to food problems in the pediatric population: Limited variety, food waste and destructive behavior for 10 items on the BAMBIC scale.

Biography

Paolo Carmelo Mirizzi is a Psychologist, Psychotherapist and PhD student at the University of Bari Aldo Moro (Italy). His main field of research is Autism and Pediatric Feeding Disorders in Typical and Atypical Development and Intervention Protocol about the Evaluation and Clinical Treatment in Pediatric Population.

paolomirizzi@yahoo.it